

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 STR-02 EUR-08 CIAE-00 INR-05 H-01

L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 /043 W

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R 161705Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1870

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2488

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LIMDIS

PASS STR FOR AMBASSADOR DENT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TNC MINISTERIAL NEXT SPRING

1. SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET HANNAY CALLED SEPTEMBER 16 TO TELL US THAT COMMISSION INTENDS TO PURSUE PROPOSAL FOR A MARCH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF TNC DURING FIRST MEETING OF ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE AT PRINCIPALS LEVEL, CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24. MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14 WAS A DEPUTIES LEVEL AND COMMISSION DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL THEN SINCE DEPUTIES WOULD HAVE INSISTED THEY WERE NOT COMPETENT TO DECIDE. IN ANY CASE, ALL MEMBER STATES KNOW OF PROPOSAL (FROM LUYTEN BRIEFING LAST JULY) AND PRINCIPALS OUGHT TO BE READY TO ACT ON IT SEPTEMBER 24.

2. HANNAY CONFIRMED THAT COMMISSION CONTINUES TO FAVOR IDEA OF MEETING AND IS OPTIMISTIC MEMBER STATES WILL AGREE. HOWEVER, HE SAID SOAMES HAS SOME RELUCTANCE ABOUT "GOING PUBLIC" (I.E. MAKING FORMAL PROPOSAL IN GENEVA) AT THIS STAGE, IMPLYING COMMISSION WOULD PREFER TO DELAY FORMAL JOINT APPROACH UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR.

3. HANNAY DEFINED COMMISSION'S PERCEPTION OF PURPOSE OF MEETING

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AS "STEAM RAISING", I.E., BUILD UP MOMENTUM FOR COMPLETION OF

MTN BY END OF 1977, RATHER THAN TO REACH DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC
ISSUES. SINCE PURPOSE IS THUS MAINLY "POLITICAL", THERE WOULD
BE NO NEED FOR LENGTHY PRE-MEETING PREPARATIONS, AND THEREFORE
NO NECESSITY TO MAKE FORMAL APPROACH UNTIL LATER. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, PLANNING MEETINGS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU09076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760351-0126
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760954/aaaabujb.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE TNC MINISTERIAL NEXT SPRING
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, TNC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006